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Recruitment of clerks for the Commercial Taxes department.

* 251 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the procedure adopted by the Government in recruiting candidates to clerks' posts in the Commercial Taxes department from the Revenue and Registration departments ; and

(*b*) the number of persons so far recruited from the Revenue and Registration departments and by direct recruitment?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Recruitment of lower division clerks in the Commercial Taxes Department is through the Madras Public Service Commission which prepares approved lists for each departmental unit; and recruitment to the upper division in the Commercial Taxes Department is by promotion from the lower division. The number of persons so far directly recruited by the Madras Public Service Commission to the posts of lower division clerks in the Commercial Taxes Department is five."

Number of Communist prisoners in Central Jail, Cannanore.

* 252 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state how many Communist prisoners are undergoing imprisonment in the Central Jail, Cannanore? 11-40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" There are 3 prisoners convicted under the ordinary penal law (viz.) the Indian Penal Code, who are reported to be members of the Communist party, now undergoing imprisonment in the Central Jail, Cannanore."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" സർ, മാറിയ പരിതഃസ്ഥിതിയുടെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ ഈ രാഷ്ട്രീയ തടവുകാരെ ഉടനെതന്നെ വിടും എന്നു മന്ത്രി എത്രയോ പ്രാവശ്യം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടും ഇതേവരെയും വിട്ടയക്കാത്തതിനാൽ, ഈ രാഷ്ട്രീയ തടവുകാരെ ഉടനെതന്നെ വിട്ടയക്കുവാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ട് ഒരുങ്ങുമോ ? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" These people have been convicted on grave charges and as such, we could not reduce or commute their sentences and release them."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Sir, is it not a fact that the authorities should ascertain the political affiliation of prisoners usually? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" No, Sir."

SRI L. C. PAIS :—" May I know how many prisoners have been given amnesty? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Very many, Sir. Very recently a month or two ago, eight prisoners were released."

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SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" In view of the fact that the Communist Party of India have decided to go back to their palicy of 1947, namely, of supporting the Nehru Government, of course with some minor demagogy reservations, will the Government release the Communist prisoners or if that cannot be done, will they at least give an assurance that they (the prisoners) will not meet the fate of ' Beria '? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Regarding the first part of the question, Government are not yet aware of such a change in the attitute of the Communist Party of India. Regarding the second part of the question, let me inform the hon. Member that we are in India and not in Russia." (Cheers.)

SRI K. R. NALLASIVAM :—" கம்யூனிஸ்ட்கள் தீவிரமாக பார்லிமெண்டரி நடவடிக்கைகளில் கலந்துகொள்வதால் அவர்களை விடுதலை செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஆழ்ந்து யோசித்து வருகிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" A separate question may be put."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have only twenty minutes left. I want to proceed with the remaining questions rapidly."

Elections to District Boards.

* 253 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state when the elections to the District Boards in this State will be held?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

* 254 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri K. Aranganathan has written to me that he is not putting this question."

Selection of Harijans as Public Works Department contractors.

* 255 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Harijan members applied to the Government to register them as Public Works Department contractors ; and

(*b*) how many of them were selected as contractors?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Six Harijan members applied recently for being registered as P.W.D. contractors.

" (*b*) Five were registered as contractors. One Harijan applicant did not pay the registration fees and hence he was not registered."